

(Left) Small bench with ramps eliminates back breaking work in repairing and painting gang mowers. (Right) Movable Remline tool chest is parked next to work bench, helps to cut down on aggravation of misplaced tools.



North Shore shop has plenty of altitude. Front end loader can stretch to its full height.

# HIBERNATION with a Repair Kit and Paint Sprayer

They hardly poke their noses outside the door at North Shore in the winter but they get a lot of work done

Even when today's high costs are taken into consideration, there isn't much doubt that golf club members, too few of

whom are aware of the work of their maintenance departments, are amazed when they learn that in many instances something like \$3,000 or \$4,000 is spent each year in course equipment upkeep. "How," many of them ask, "is it possible to spray that much paint or bury so many



Joe Dinelli

replacement parts in the innards of the machinery?"

What they don't realize is that tractors,



Seven greenmowers, three tee mowers and various pieces of miscellaneous equipment are garaged in middle section of the maintenance building. At right, Joe Dinelli stays in shape by working on the reel grinder.

mowers, trucks and other pieces of equipment that have been constantly bumping over rugged course terrain for six or seven months undergo a terrific amount of abuse. There are other factors that have to be considered, too. For one, the longevity of the machines, many of them at least seven or eight years old, has to be taken into account. Inexperienced operators, who have to be hired because of the labor pinch, take their toll, and so does the fact that much of the summertime maintenance has to be deferred until the courses are closed down for the winter.

At the North Shore CC in Glenview, Ill., Joe Dinelli, the meticulous young supt. who keeps his equipment looking like it was just lifted out of the shipping crates, estimates that \$3,500 is spent every year in renovating and repairing the machines used in maintaining the course.



This amounts to about four per cent of the club's investment in tractors, mowers, etc.

### Three-Month Job

North Shore's winterlong renovation program is started in the early part of December and continues almost without interruption until March. A four man crew, including a full time mechanic, Henry Weigt, works under Dinelli's direction in cleaning, painting and repairing more than 100 pieces of machinery. Besides this, all the benches, waste containers and miscellaneous items scattered about the course are brought into the club's large, all-steel maintenance building and given a touch up. If the North Shore grounds staff doesn't run out of paint, or renovation funds, and has enough time before the winter is out, the spray guns are turned on the walls and interior fittings of the shop following a general housecleaning in which some 9,000 square feet of floor space get what nearly amounts to vacuum cleaner attention.

Says Roger S. Hurd, Dinelli's green chairman: "This place sparkles around the middle of March. When Joe and his men get the machinery painted up and the maintenance building cleaned out just before the season starts, you'd think it was a new club getting ready to dedicate its course." Hurd recalls with pride how last (Continued on page 99)

Pre-fab steel building at North Shore was built in 1957, is divided into three large sections.

## Winter Repair Program at North Shore CC

### (Continued from page 32)

year he led a delegation of green committeemen and other members to look over the North Shore maintenance building. "To say that they were impressed is an understatement," he says. "Most of them hadn't been in the building before. They were really surprised to see the work that maintenance department has to do. The equipment was newly painted and it was hard to convince them that we hadn't recently bought most of it."

#### Motor Repair Work

When anything with a motor is brought into the North Shore shop for an annual checkup, it is first steam cleaned. The motor is then given a tuneup and replacement parts such as rings, points, valves, plugs, etc are installed where needed. Dinelli's employees handle all the repair work except the re-boring of cylinders and it is estimated that several hundred dollars is saved annually by not sending the motors to an outside garage for overhauling. At the same time the bodies or housings are repaired, if necessary. Then comes a second cleaning and either a complete re-painting of the equipment or a touchup job. All repairs are recorded on cards kept on each piece of machinery.

Fairway mowers are renovated every year. They, too, are first steam cleaned. Then the blades are lapped and ground and bearings and bushings are replaced. They are given a second cleaning and then re-painted. Small gas-operated mowers usually require no more than an oil and grease job and a general cleanup.

After the heavy machinery and the mowers are taken care of (they total about 30 pieces) the North Shore maintenance staff turns to cleaning, repairing and painting the auxiliary equipment such as fertilizers, spreaders, sprayers, seeders, aerifiers, etc. —more than 50 pieces in all.

#### Have to Get It Done

The major part of the repair work has to be handled in the off season because thereafter little time can be spared for it. Fairway mowers are lapped in again in midsummer and, of course, green and tee mowers are cleaned and adjusted every day during the playing season. Some rou-





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Maintenance men have enough to do protecting themselves while jockeying tractors, but here a new hazard has been added. Dr. John Roads is playing out of a trough atop the maintenance building at Coronado CC in El Paso. Dr. Roads had to climb a ladder to reach his lie on the Butler building, but recovered well enough to get a bogey 5.

tine repairs are made on the other equipment between April and November, but + except in the case of a breakdown, very little time is given to overhauling any machines at Glenview when the golfers are swarming over the course. It is as Joe Dinelli says: "You can't afford to lose any time during the winter in handling repair work. You have to put every piece of equipment in good enough shape to have a reasonable chance of getting through the summer with it."

The North Shore maintenance department is well equipped with the kind of machines it takes to keep the course equipment functioning properly. These fixtures include a bed knife grinder, reel grinder, lapping machine, compressors for paint spraying, portable steam cleaner and welding equipment. There also is a paint room. The four men who are kept on during the winter months are capable of operating each of the machines. A rather large parts inventory that includes belts, gaskets, plugs, points, condensers and a variety of hardware items is kept in the shop.

The \$20,000 maintenance building at the Glenview club, in contrast to many, offers a very fine wintertime working en-

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vironment. It is heated by oil, is well insulated and the thermostatically controlled heat is kept at a temperature of about 70 degrees even on those sub-zero days which are quite common in the northern part of Illinois. Skylights and fluorescent fixtures, located along three walls of the workshop area, provide excellent lighting. The maintenance shop is 50 x 180 feet and has three sections: one for the storage of fertilizers, topdressing and chemicals; a second for the garaging of equipment; and the third, the aforementioned work area. The building erected about five vears ago, is constructed of prefab steel siding manufactured by Armco Steel Co.

North Shore doesn't have any set schedule for the replacement of equipment. The purchase of a new machine depends to a great extent on how effectively Joe Dinelli present a case for it. Last spring, for example, he wrangled new tractor by convincing the board that an old model, purchased in 1954, had travelled the equivalent of 100,000 automobile miles. Joe worked out a rather complicated formula showing that a vehicle that constantly runs in low gear does as much work, or equivalent travelling, as one that alternates over three gears in spite of a large mileage differential. The directors were either so impressed or befuddled by his calculations that they capitulated without a dissenting vote.

#### Supporting Evidence

Dinelli feels that most first class clubs will provide their grounds staffs with adequate equipment if supts. put intelligent effort into preparing requests that are made for it. It isn't enough to say, for example, that a seven-gang mower is urgently needed, he observes. The requisisition should be presented with figures on the age of the machine, estimated depreciation, cost of repairs that have been made on it and, of course, the replacement price. Literature from manufacturers describing the equipment that is wanted should accompany the requisition so that the persons who pass on the purchase know specifically what is being requested.

"When I get a new piece of equipment," says the Glenview greenmaster, "I try to hustle it out where it can be seen as quickly as possible. The idea isn't to show off the new toy, but to convince the members that the machine was needed. Usually

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they don't know much about machinery and I suspect some of them think we're gadget happy and probably never use half of the stuff we buy."

#### Father Is 35-Year Man

The son of Frank Dinelli, who has been supt. of Northmoor CC in nearby Highland Park for more than 35 years, young Joe, of course, was raised breathing chlorophyll and fungicide. He worked for his father for several years, attended Purdue University agronomy school and had a pretty substantial practical and theoretical background when he got his first head supt. job at Evanston (Ill.) CC in 1955. Joe moved to North Shore in 1961.

After he was graduated from high school, though, Dinelli debated for a while as to what kind of a golf career he should follow. He won the Illinois prep title in his Senior year in school. An accomplishment such as that usually prompts an 18-year old to think that he can make it as a professional. Joe finally decided that he was more strongly inclined toward turf work and hasn't regretted the decision. "It isn't as glamorous as being a pro," he observes, "but it has plenty of compensations." The North Shore greenmaster, incidentally, hasn't lost his touch, shooting consistently in the 70s. On his better days he gives the club's pro, Bill Ogden, an interesting debate.

Older heads among the Midwest supts. rate Joe Dinelli as one of the bright young men in their profession. "I guess the old gent brought him up right," says one in referring to the training Joe received under his father. Typical of many of the new men who are coming into the turf field, or have come into it in the last decade or so, young Dinelli is considered the complete greenmaster type. He has a thorough knowledge of turf, knows his way around machinery and is a very competent administrator. "The records that Joe keeps," an admirer points out, "would do justice to a CPA. He can account for every gasket that ever has been put on a tractor, and it wouldn't surprise me if he knows t down to the last pellet how much fertilizer there is on the 14th green. He's a fellow who is in complete command of the operation, if I ever saw one."

#### **Club Transport Fee**

Eastern Air Lines recently filed a new tariff with the CAB providing for transportation of clubs and bag at a fee of \$4 between any two cities on Eastern routes in the U.S. and Canada. The new rate will become effective on Jan. 26.